

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 757

By Butt

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Steve Gray of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Steve Gray; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Gray was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Steve Gray served the Lord faithfully as a minister to the inner-city youth of Columbia for more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Gray founded Word of Life Ministries approximately fifteen years ago and built the ministry into a widely-respected safe haven for Maury County youth. It had between 100-300 members at any given time; and

WHEREAS, the ministry works to steer children away from dropping out of school and leading a life of crime, guiding them toward a commitment to building self-confidence and the willpower to succeed, not only in school but also in the community; and

WHEREAS, Steve Gray helped children find their way at times in their lives when they didn't have anywhere to go, serving selflessly as a bridge-builder to help people he didn't personally know; and

WHEREAS, he will be remembered fondly as a perpetually positive figure in the community and as someone who always put his congregation before his own interests; and

WHEREAS, he mentored children and helped them to overcome the circumstances of their neighborhoods, their undesirable family situations, or anything else they may have been experiencing; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Gray was a man who strove to make his work reflect his beliefs, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of Maury County; and

WHEREAS, his numerous accomplishments aside, he was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was perhaps proudest of the love and companionship he shared with his wife, Mamie, and their children, all of whom helped him build the ministry into the uplifting beacon of hope and goodwill that it is today; and

WHEREAS, Steve Gray leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Pastor Steve Gray, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Pastor Gray.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.